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REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, a new Figure 11 has been added. Claims 1-6 have been amended and new claim 7 has been added. Attached is a version showing the changes made to the specification and the amended claims.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

John G. Poso
Reg. No. 37,424
Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle,
Anderson & Citkowski, PC
280 N. Old Woodward Ave., Ste 400
Birmingham, MI 48009
(734) 913-9300 FAX (734) 913-6007

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 4, lines 1-2:

FIGURE 10B is a side elevational view of a sleeve having a plurality of side facets according to
a yet a further embodiment of the invention; and [.]

Page 4, line 3:

FIGURE 11 is a drawing that illustrates a further alternative embodiment of the invention
including a flattened closed end as opposed to a hemispherical top.

Page 8, line 8:

Figure 11 is a drawing that illustrates a further alternative embodiment of the invention
including a flattened closed end as opposed to a hemispherical top. As with the other embodiments
disclosed herein, the thickness of the top is generally consistent with the thickness of the side walls.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) A cover for a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion
having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper [terminal] end, the cover
consisting essentially of:

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending between two opposing ends,
said body [sleeve] having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through

one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said cavity being adapted to receive the stanchion in slip-fit engagement; and

 said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body.

2. (Twice Amended) A method of [at least partially] encasing a stanchion, comprising the steps of:

 providing a sleeve having an elongated generally cylindrical body with two opposing ends and an interior cavity extending along said elongated body and through one end of said elongated body, the other of said ends having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body without any discontinuities;

 forming said interior cavity [chamber] with a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said interior chamber adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement;

 inserting the stanchion into said interior cavity; and

 urging said sleeve onto the stanchion, to a desired position on the stanchion, to at least partially encase the stanchion.

3. (Amended) A cover for a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper [terminal] end, the cover comprising:

 a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two

opposing ends, said body [sleeve] having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said cavity being adapted to receive the stanchion in slip-fit engagement;

 said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body; and

 said sleeve and said dome top each being molded from a plastic material and having a wall thickness, said wall thickness of said sleeve and said wall thickness of said dome top being substantially the same.

4. (Amended) A stanchion and cover assembly comprising:

 a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper [terminal] end [, the stanchion having] defining a height;

 a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends defining a length, said body [sleeve] having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement [, said sleeve having a length];

 said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top; and

 said length of said sleeve being the same as or slightly longer than said height of said stanchion such that said stanchion substantially fills [fill] said interior cavity.

5. (Amended) A stanchion and cover assembly comprising:

a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper [terminal] end;

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends, said body [sleeve] having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement; and

said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body;

wherein nothing else is required to retain said cover on said stanchion.

6. (Amended) A stanchion and cover assembly comprising:

a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper [terminal] end, the stanchion having a height;

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends, said body [sleeve] having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends [without any inwardly extending protrusion], said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement, said sleeve having a length;

said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that

smoothly transitions from said body;

said length of said sleeve being the same as or slightly longer than said height of said stanchion such that said stanchion substantially fill said interior cavity; and

said sleeve and said dome top each being molded from a plastic material and having a wall thickness, said wall thickness of said sleeve and said wall thickness of said dome top being substantially the same [;

wherein nothing else is required to retain said cover on said stanchion].